

USASK COUNCIL GAZETTE

Volume II, No. 1

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Your Bi-Yearly Guide to What's Happening Around Council!

30 Years of University Council

The 2024-2025 academic years marks the 30th year of University Council.

The University of Saskatchewan Act, 1995 established a representative Council for the University of Saskatchewan, conferring Council responsibility and authority

“for overseeing and directing the university’s academic affairs.”

In addition, Council meetings moved locations and now take place in the historical Convocation Hall.



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Academic Programs Committee

The Academic Programs Committee (APC) meets bi-weekly and is chaired by Carolyn Augusta. APC is known to be the robust decision-making committee given their main responsibilities are to review and approve curriculum changes from all colleges, recommend major curriculum changes to Council and oversee policies relating to students and academic programs.



To date, APC has made decisions on program terminations, program changes and new certificates. The committee will be reviewing several program proposals in the next couple of months as colleges work towards the January deadline for revisions to be included in the University Program Catalogue.

In addition to programs, APC had the opportunity to learn and provide feedback on the new draft Assessment Policy and Procedures presented by Wendy James and Nancy Turner from the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching and Learning. The new Assessment Policy and Procedures are being developed to address shifts in assessment practices taking place post-pandemic. A joint APC/TLARC working group came together to create evidence-informed assessment principles and to learn how these principles can be applied and actualized. Within this work, it became clear that a complete overhaul of the Academic Courses Policy was required which was then endorsed by both APC and TLARC.

For thoughts and questions on ‘what’s happening’ at APC, connect with Danielle at danielle.rudulier@usask.ca, APC Committee Coordinator.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee, chaired by Roy Dobson is keeping busy with reviewing and discussing changes to faculty bylaws as well as looking at Council Bylaws. The committee anticipates a number of policy and regulation changes to come for discussion this year. In addition, the Governance Committee is overseeing a project that will review the mandates of the committees of Council.



For thoughts and questions on ‘what’s happening’ at Governance, connect with Amanda at amanda.storey@usask.ca, Governance Committee Coordinator.

12th Presidential Search Information



Nominations Committee

If Council were a stage play, the Nominations Committee would be the crew as it is an essential committee with behind-the-scenes work.

The Nominations Committee, chaired by Scott Bell, is responsible for recommending to Council a slate of qualified candidates to serve on university-level committees. This includes committees of University Council, search and review committees for senior administrators, and committees required under the collective agreement between USask and the Faculty Association.

The Council Bylaws and the terms of reference for committees provide the Nominations Committee with various restrictions in how it goes about its work. For example, different committees have different compositions, there are restrictions for how long one can consecutively serve on a committee, and sometimes being on one committee can preclude serving on another. The Council Bylaws also instruct the Nominations Committee to take different factors into consideration in doing its work, such as disciplinary diversity; selecting nominees with experience, demonstrated commitment, and the potential to contribute to a committee; and giving a full consideration to achieving diverse representation. The Nominations Committee has been actively engaged in discussions and learnings over the past couple of years as to how it can best fulfill this commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion to live up to the wishes of Council and the EDI Framework for Action endorsed by University Council.

There will be a call for interest to Council members coming out in the spring to sit on various committees for the next academic year.

For thoughts and questions on ‘what’s happening’ at Nominations, connect with Jordan at jordan.sherbino@usask.ca, Nominations Committee Coordinator.

MEET YOUR 2024-2025 COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

Council Chair: Vicki Squires–
Education

Council Vice-Chair: Reza
Fotouhi– Engineering

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

APC: Carolyn Augusta–
Edwards

Governance: Roy Dobson–
Pharmacy and Nutrition

Nominations: Scott Bell–
Geography and Planning

PPC: Christian Willenborg–
Plant Sciences

RSAW: Eric Lamb–
Plant Sciences

Scholarships and Awards:
Jason Perepelkin–
Pharmacy and Nutrition

TLARC: Ralph Deters–
Computer Science



Planning and Priorities Committee

The Planning and Priorities Committee of Council (PPC) meets bi-weekly and is off to a full start this fall. With Chair Vicki Squires being appointed the new Chair of University Council, Vice-Chair Angela Lieverse stepped into the Chair role to start off the academic cycle. The Nominations Committee appointed Christian Willenborg as Chair effective September 26, 2024.

President Stoicheff joined members at their first meeting to discuss the leadership changes within the Provost Office. The President spoke to members about the need to modernize the provost role given the changing world since the position was first developed including financial challenges and government relations, global political situations, student mental health, urgency of deferred maintenance of buildings, reconciliation, etc. The President explained that these priorities have all been placed within the Provost Office causing the portfolio to grow substantially; therefore, requiring a review.

PPC has had a few opportunities to hear from CFO Dee Henne on USask financial updates, implementation of the new structures including the Strategic Finance Committee comprised of the CFO and Vice-Presidents who are responsible for advising the President. PPC has a role in providing feedback on the budget; therefore, CFO Henne will be presenting updates and strategies to PPC regularly throughout the year.

The President and Vice-Presidents have all stopped by with presentations on their unit priorities for 2024-2025 with an opportunity for members to ask questions and learn about the goals within these units for the upcoming year. PPC plans to welcome everyone back in the spring for a progress update on their outlined priorities.

PPC member Dr. Venkatesh Meda provided the committee with an overview on a project undertaken to learn of current academic collaborations with Saskatchewan Polytechnic as well as looking at best practices to inform work and partnerships going forward given the future visibility of the united campuses.

Other topics of interest to PPC have been the ongoing concerns around international students and the impacts the government decisions are making on our campus. Members of PPC were notified that the UPlan is going to extend beyond 2025 with a slight adjustment to focus on values and ideas. Information is available on the [Tracking Our Progress Website](#).



Coming up PPC will be provided with information on the capital prioritization project, tuition and fee information as well as the Student Enrolment Management planning.

For thoughts and questions on ‘what’s happening’ at PPC, connect with Danielle at danelle.rudulier@usask.ca, PPC Committee Coordinator.

Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work Committee

The Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work Committee (RSAW), chaired by Eric Lamb, has been busy this term acquainting itself with its responsibilities and planning its work for the year. At its November meeting, the committee received the annual reports from the Research Ethics Boards and engaged in a preliminary discussion on the changes to the University Standards. Looking forward to future meetings, RSAW will be discussing the changes to the University Standards with the vice-provost, Faculty Relations, discussing research collections on campus, and discussing issues around responsible conduct of research.

For thoughts and questions on ‘what’s happening’ at RSAW, connect with Amanda at amanda.storey@usask.ca, RSAW Committee Coordinator.

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Scholarships and Awards Committee

The Scholarships and Awards Committee saw the approval of new undergraduate awards policy through Council last January and has been reviewing the impact of the new policy changes. Additionally, the committee is investigating whether a similar policy for awards that fall outside of CGPS’s authority in this area is necessary to ensure award adjudication is equitable and consistent with university best practices. In December and January, the committee will undertake its annual task of adjudicating the university’s highest value entering awards, consisting of 17 awards totaling \$560,000 in value, requiring a review of 210-240 applicants.

For thoughts and questions on ‘what’s happening’ at S&A, connect with Alex Beldan at alex.beldan@usask.ca, S&A Committee Coordinator.



Teaching, Learning and Academic Resources Committee

The teaching, learning, and academic resources committee welcomes Ralph Deters as its new Chair. The committee also has six new members which include Kate Congreves, Natasha Hubbard Murdoch, Marguerite Koole, Ken MacKenzie, Colin Miner, and Reza Golpayegani. For this academic year, the Chair anticipates focusing on issues that arise from Council and any topics brought forward by committee members. A large focus will be on the principles of generative artificial intelligence and potential solutions for students who use it. If you would like to be a guest presenter at TLARC involving any pedagogical issues or information you would like the committee feedback on, please be in touch with the committee coordinator.

For thoughts and questions on ‘what’s happening’ at TLARC, connect with Lissa at lissa.defreitas@usask.ca, TLARC Committee Coordinator.

“The University of Saskatchewan Learning Charter is intended to define aspirations about the learning experience that the University aims to provide, and the roles to be played in realizing these aspirations by students, instructors and the institution”

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Reminder to take time to pause...

NOVELS

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

1984 by George Orwell

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

ON THE SCREEN

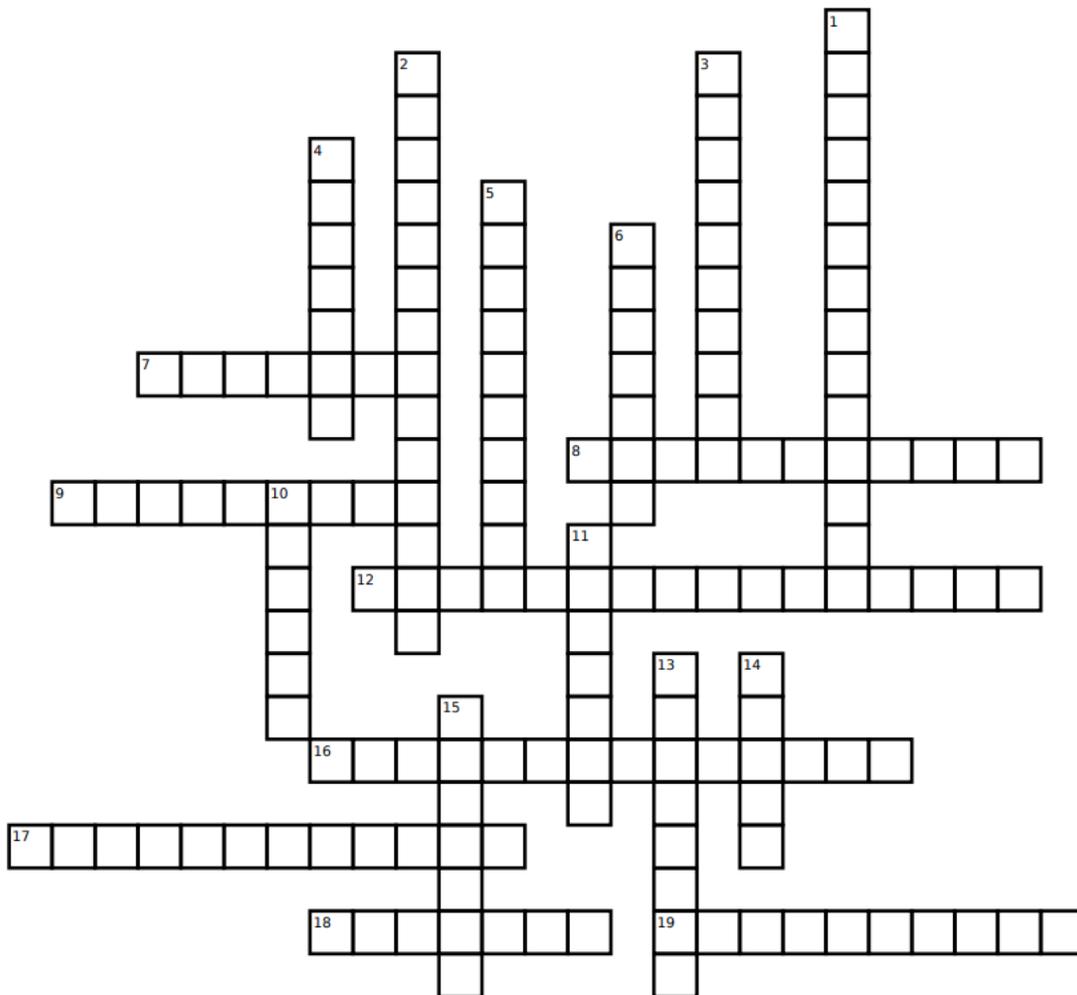
A Beautiful Mind

The Nutty Professor

Tenure

Governance Office Pick of the Month: Napoleon Dynamite

The Governance Times Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. Where you can find the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery
2. This college has the highest student enrollment
3. This position Chairs Senate Meetings
4. Number of USask athletic teams
5. First woman Council Chair
6. Last name of Council Chair
10. This is the number of years Council has ran for
11. Merlis Belsher Lounge name
13. The method and practice of teaching
14. Council has this many committees
15. This governing body has 135 members

Across:

7. How one might get around campus during winter
8. Current rules of orders used for Council
9. This committee sets the agenda for Council meetings
12. This committee reports to Council on implications of enrolment plans, changes, and admission standards
16. This is the highest honour bestowed to an individual
17. PMB is constructed mostly with this locally sourced dolomitic limestone
18. 211 of these were made at Council, Board, and Senate in 2023-2024
19. This committee recommends changes to the Council Bylaws

Do you have an announcement, book, movie or podcast to share? We would love to hear it!
 Connect with us at governance.office@usask.ca